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H. H. WORTHINGTON, Editor.

"A Strict Adherence to the Letter and Spirit of the Constitution--The Only Safeguard of the South."

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

Fellow-citizens of the Senate

and of the House of Representatives:

The brief space which has elapsed since the close
of your last session has been marked by no ex-
traordinary political event. The quadrennial
election of Chief Magistrate has passed off with
less than the usual excitement. However indi-
viduals and parties may have been disappointed
in the result, it is nevertheless a subject of national
congratulation that the choice has been effected
by the independent suffrages of a free people, un-
disturbed by those influences which in other
countries have too often affected the purity of
popular elections.

Our grateful thanks are due to an All-merciful
Providence, not only for staying the pestilence
which in different forms has desolated some of
our cities, but for crowning the labors of the hus-
bandman with an abundant harvest, and the na-
tion generally with the blessings of peace and
prosperity.

Within a few weeks the public mind has been
deeply affected by the death of Daniel Webster,
filling at his decease the office of Secretary of
State. His associates in the Executive govern-
ment have sincerely sympathized with his family
and the public generally on this mournful oc-
casion. His commanding talents, his great politi-
cal and professional eminence, his well-tryed pa-
triotism, and his long and faithful services, in the
most important public trusts, have caused his
death to be lamented throughout the country, and
have earned for him a lasting place in our
history.

In the course of the last summer considerable
anxiety was caused for a short time by an official
intimation from the government of Great Britain
that orders had been given for the protection of
the fisheries upon the coasts of the British provin-
ces in North America against the alleged encroach-
ments of the fishing vessels of the United States
and France. The shortness of this notice and the
season of the year seemed to make it a matter of
urgent importance. It was at first apprehended
that an increased naval force had been ordered to
the fishing grounds to carry into effect the British
interpretation of those provisions in the conven-
tion of 1818, in reference to the true intent of
which the two governments differ. It was soon
discovered that such was not the design of Great
Britain, and satisfactory explanation of the real
objects of the measure have been given both here
and in London.

The unadjusted difference, however, between
the two governments as to the interpretation of the
first article of the convention of 1818 is still a
matter of importance. American fishing vessels
within nine or ten years have been excluded from
waters to which they had free access for twenty-
five years after the negotiation of the treaty. In
1845 this exclusion was relaxed so far as con-
cerns the Bay of Fundy, but the just and
liberal intention of the Home government, in
compliance with what we think the true construc-
tion of the convention, to open all the other out-
er bays to our fishermen, was abandoned, in con-
sequence of the opposition of the colonies. Not-
withstanding this the United States have, since
the Bay of Fundy was re-opened to our fisher-
men in 1845, pursued the most liberal course to-
wards the colonial fishing interests. By the revenue
law of 1846, the duties on colonial fish enter-
ing our ports were very greatly reduced, and by
the warehousing act it is allowed to be entered in
bond without payment of duty. In this way
colonial fish has acquired the monopoly of the
export trade in our market, and is entering to
some extent into the home consumption. These
facts are among those which increased the sensi-
bility of our fishing interest, at the movements in
question.

These circumstances and the incidents above
alluded to have led me to think the moment favor-
able for a re-consideration of the entire subject of
the fisheries on the coasts of the British provinces
with a view to putting them on a more liberal
footing of reciprocal privilege. A willingness to
meet us in some arrangement of this kind is un-
derstood to exist, on the part of Great Britain,
with a desire on her part to include in one com-
prehensive settlement, as well this subject as the
commercial intercourse between the United States
and the British provinces. I have thought that
whatever arrangements may be made on these
two subjects, it is expedient that they should be
embraced in separate conventions. The illness and
death of the late Secretary of State prevented the
commencement of the contemplated negotiation.
Pains have been taken to collect the information
required for the detail of such an arrangement.
The subject is attended with considerable diffi-
culty. If it is found practicable to come to an agree-
ment mutually acceptable to the two parties,
conventions may be concluded in the course of
the present winter. The control of Congress
over all the provisions of such an arrangement,
affecting the revenue, will of course be reserved.

The affairs of Cuba formed a prominent topic
in my last annual message. They remain in an
unsettled condition, and a feeling of alarm and ir-
ritation on the part of the Cuban authorities ap-
pears to exist. This feeling has interfered with
the regular commercial intercourse between the
United States and the island, and led to some acts
of which we have a right to complain. But the
Captain General of Cuba is clothed with no power
to treat with foreign governments, nor is he in

any degree under the control of the Spanish Min-
ister at Washington. Any communication which
he may hold with an agent of a foreign power is
informal and matter of courtesy. Anxious to put
an end to the existing inconveniences, (which seem-
ed to rest on a misconception,) I directed the
newly appointed Minister to Mexico to visit Ha-
vana, on his way to Vera Cruz. He was respec-
tfully received by the Captain General, who con-
ferred with him freely on the recent occur-
rences; but no permanent arrangement was ef-
fected.

In the mean time, the refusal of the Captain
to allow passengers and the mail to be landed in
certain cases, for a reason which does not furnish
in the opinion of this Government even a good
presumptive ground for such a prohibition, has
been made the subject of a serious remonstrance
at Madrid; and I have no reason to doubt that
due respect will be paid by the government of
Her Catholic Majesty to the representations which
our Minister has been instructed to make on the
subject.

It is but justice to the Captain General to add,
that his conduct towards the steamers employed
to carry the mails of the United States to Havana
has, with the exceptions above alluded to, been
marked with kindness and liberality, and indicates
no general purpose of interfering with the com-
mercial correspondence and intercourse between
the island and this country.

Early in the present year official notes were re-
ceived from the Ministers of France and England,
inviting the Government of the United States to
become a party with Great Britain to a tripartite
Convention, in virtue of which the three powers
should severally and collectively disclaim, now
and for the future, all intention to obtain posses-
sion of the Island of Cuba, and should bind them-
selves to discountenance all attempts to that ef-
fect on the part of any power or individual what-
ever. This invitation has been respectfully de-
clined, for reasons which would occupy too much
space in this communication to state in detail,
but which led me to think that the proposed
measure would be of doubtful constitutionality,
impolitic, and unavailing. I have, however, in
common with several of my predecessors, directed
the Ministers of France and England to be as-
sured that the United States certainly no de-
signs against Cuba; but that, on the contrary, I
should regard its incorporation into the Union at
the present time as fraught with serious peril.

Were this island comparatively destitute of in-
habitants, or occupied by a kindred race, I should
regard it, if voluntarily ceded by Spain, as a most
desirable acquisition. But, under existing cir-
cumstances, I should look upon its incorporation
into our Union as a very hazardous measure. It
would bring into the Confederacy a population of
a different national stock, speaking a different
language, and not likely to harmonize with the
other members. It would probably affect in a
prejudicial manner the industrial interests of the
South; and it might revive those conflicts in
opinion between the different sections of the coun-
try, which lately shook the Union to its centre,
and which have been so happily compromised.

The rejection by the Mexican Congress of the
Convention which had been concluded between
that Republic and the United States, for the
protection of a transit way across the Isthmus
of Tehuantepec, and of the interests of those
citizens of the United States who had be-
come proprietors of the rights which Mexico
had conferred on one of her own citizens in re-
gard to that transit, has thrown a serious obsta-
cle in the way of the attainment of a very desir-
able national object. I am still willing to hope that
the differences on the subject which exist, or may
hereafter arise, between the governments, will be
amicably adjusted. This subject, however, has
already engaged the attention of the Senate of the
U. S., and requires no further comment in this
communication.

The settlement of the question respecting the
port of San Juan de Nicaragua, and of the con-
troversy between the Republics of Costa Rica and
Nicaragua in regard to their boundaries, was con-
sidered indispensable to the commencement of the
ship canal between the two oceans, which was the
subject of the Convention between the U. S. and
Great Britain of the 19th of April, 1850. Accord-
ingly, a proposition for the same purpose ad-
dressed to the two governments in that quarter,
and to the Mosquito Indians, was agreed to in
April last by the Secretary of State and the
Minister of her Britannic Majesty. Besides the
wish to aid in reconciling the difference of the
two Republics, I engaged in the negotiations from
a desire to place the great work of a ship canal
between the two oceans under one jurisdiction, and
to establish the important port of San Juan de
Nicaragua under the government of a civilized
power. The proposition in question was assented
to by Costa Rica and the Mosquito Indians. It
has not proved equally acceptable to Nicaragua,
but it is to be hoped that the further negotia-
tions on the subject which are in train, will be car-
ried on in that spirit of conciliation and compromise
which ought always to prevail on such occasion,
and that they will lead to a satisfactory result.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the
Executive Government of Venezuela has ac-
knowledgeed some claims of citizens of the U. S.,
which have for many years past been urged by our
Charge d'Affaires at Caracas. It is hoped that
the same sense of justice will actuate the Congress
of that Republic in providing the means for their
payment.

The recent revolution in Buenos Ayres and the
confederated States having opened the prospect of
an improved state of things in that quarter, the
government of Great Britain and France deter-
mined to negotiate with the chief of the new
Confederacy for the free access of their commerce
to the extensive countries watered by the tribu-
taries of the La Plata; and they gave a friendly
notice of this purpose to the U. S., that we might
if we thought proper pursue the same course. In
compliance with this invitation, our minister at
Rio Janeiro and our Charge d'Affaires at Buenos
Ayres have been fully authorized to conclude
treaties with the newly organized Confederacy, or
the states composing it. The delays which have
taken place in the formation of the new govern-
ment have as yet prevented the execution of those
instructions; but there is every reason to hope
that these vast countries will be eventually opened
to our commerce.

A treaty of commerce has been concluded be-
tween the U. S. and the Oriental Republic of Ur-
uguay, which will be laid before the Senate.
Should this convention go into operation, it will
open to the commercial enterprise of our citizens

a country of great extent and unsurpassed in na-
tural resources, but from which foreign nations
have hitherto been almost wholly excluded.

The correspondence of the late Secretary of
State with the Peruvian Charge d'Affaires relative to
the Lobos Islands was communicated to Congress
towards the close of the last session. Since that
time, on further investigation of the subject, the
doubts which have been entertained of the title
of Peru to those islands have been removed; and
I have deemed it just that the temporary wrong
which have been unintentionally done her, from
want of information should be repaired by an
unreserved acknowledgment of her sovereignty.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the
course pursued by Peru has been creditable to the
liberality of her government. Before it was
known by her that her title would be acknowledged
at Washington, her Minister of Foreign Affairs
had authorized our Charge d'Affaires at Lima to
announce to the American vessels which had gone
to the Lobos for guano, that the Peruvian Gov-
ernment was willing to freight them on its own
account. This intention has been carried into ef-
fect by the Peruvian Minister here, by an arrange-
ment which is believed to be advantageous to the
parties interested.

Our settlements on the shores of the Pacific
have already given a great extension, and in some
respects a new direction, to our commerce in that
ocean. A direct and rapidly increasing inter-
course has sprung up with Eastern Asia. The
waters of the Northern Pacific, even into the
Arctic sea, have been frequented by our whaler-
men. The application of steam to the general
purposes of navigation is becoming daily more
common, and makes it desirable to obtain fuel
and other necessary supplies at convenient points
on the route between Asia and our Pacific shores.
Our unfortunate countrymen who from time to
time suffer shipwreck on the coasts of the eastern
States are entitled to protection. Besides these spe-
cific objects, the general prosperity of our States on
the Pacific requires that an attempt should be made
to open the opposite regions of Asia to a mutu-
ally beneficial intercourse. It is obvious that this
attempt could be made by no power to so great
advantage as by the U. S., whose constitutional
system excludes every idea of distant colonial de-
pendencies. I have accordingly been led to order
an appropriate naval force to Japan, under the
command of a discreet and intelligent officer of
the highest rank known to our service. He is in-
structed to endeavor to obtain from the govern-
ment of that country some relaxation of the in-
hospitable and anti-social system which it has
pursued for about two centuries.

He has been directed particularly to remon-
strate in the strongest language against the cruel
treatment to which our shipwrecked mariners
have often been subjected, and to insist that they
shall be treated with humanity. He is instructed
however at the same time to give that govern-
ment the amplest assurance that the objects of
the U. S. are such and such only as I have in-
dicated, and that the expedition is friendly and
peaceful. Notwithstanding the jealousy with
which the governments of Eastern Asia regard all
overtures from foreigners, I am not without hopes
of a beneficial result of the expedition. Should
it be crowned with success, the advantages will
not be confined to the U. S., but, as in the case of
China, will be equally enjoyed by all the other
maritime powers. I have much satisfaction in
stating that in all the steps preparatory to this
expedition the Government of the U. S. has been
materially aided by the good offices of the
King of the Netherlands the only European
power having any commercial relations with
Japan.

In passing from the survey of our foreign rela-
tions, I invite the attention of Congress to the
condition of that department of the Government to
which this branch of the public business is en-
trusted. Our intercourse with foreign powers has
of late years greatly increased, both in consequence
of our own growth and the introduction of many
new states into the family of nations. In this way
the Department of State has become overburdened.

It has, by the recent establishment of some
portion of the domestic business. If the residue
of the business of that kind, such as the dis-
tribution of Congressional documents, the keep-
ing, publishing and distribution of the laws of
the U. S., the execution of the copyright law, the
subject of reprieves and pardons, and some other
subjects relating to interior administration, should
be transferred from the Department of State, it
would unquestionably be for the benefit of the
public service. I would also suggest that the
building appropriated to the State Departments
is not fireproof, that there is reason to think there
are defects in its construction, and that the ar-
chives of the Government in charge of the De-
partment, with the precious collections of the
manuscript papers of Washington, Jefferson, Ham-
ilton, Madison, and Monroe, are exposed to de-
struction by fire. A similar remark may be made
of the buildings appropriated to the War and Na-
vy Departments.

The condition of the Treasury is exhibited in
the annual report from the Department.

The cash receipts into the Treasury for the
fiscal year ending the 30th June last, exclusive of
trust funds, were \$49,728,396 89, and the expendi-
tures for the same period, likewise exclusive of
trust funds, were \$46,097,896 20, of which
\$9,455,815 83 was on account of the principal and
interest of the public debt, including the last in-
demnity to Mexico, under the treaty of Guadalupe
Hidalgo, leaving a balance of \$14,632,136 37
in the Treasury on the first day of July last. Since
this latter period, further purchases of the prin-
cipal of the public debt have made to the extent
of \$2,456,547 49, and the surplus in the Treas-
ury will be applied to that object, whenever
the stock can be procured within the limits, as to
price, authorized by law.

The value of foreign merchandise imported
during the last fiscal year was \$207,240,101; and
the value of domestic productions exported was
\$149,861,911; besides \$17,304,026 of foreign
merchandise exported; making the aggregate of
the entire exports \$167,055,937; exclusive of the
above there were exported \$42,507,285 in specie;
and imported from foreign ports \$5,262,845.

In my first annual message to Congress I called
your attention to what seemed to me some defects
in the present tariff, and recommended such mod-
ifications as in my judgment were best adapted
to remedy its evils and promote the prosperity of
the country. Nothing has since occurred to
change my views on this important question.

Without repeating the arguments contained in
my former message, in favor of discriminating
protective duties, I deem it my duty to call your
attention to one or two other considerations affect-
ing this subject. The first is, the large importa-
tions of foreign goods upon our currency. Most
of the gold of California, as fast as it is coined,
finds its way into Europe in payment of goods
purchased. In the second place, as our manu-
facturing establishments are broken down by com-
petition with foreigners, the capital invested in
them is lost, thousands of honest and industrious
citizens are thrown out of employment, and the
farmer to that extent is deprived of a home mar-
ket for the sale of his surplus produce. In the
third place, the destruction of our manufactures
leaves the foreigner without competition in our
market, and he consequently raises the price of
the article sent here for sale, as is now seen in the
increased cost of iron imported from England.
The prosperity and wealth of every nation must
depend upon its productive industry. The farmer
is stimulated to exertion by finding a ready
market for his surplus products, and benefited by
being able to exchange them, without loss of time
or expense of transportation, for the manu-
factures which his comfort and convenience re-
quires.

This is always done to the best advantage
where a portion of the community in which he
lives is engaged in other pursuits. But most
manufactures require an amount of capital and
a practical skill which cannot be commanded, un-
less they be protected for a time from ruinous
competition from abroad. Hence the necessity of
laying those duties upon imported goods which
the Constitution authorizes for revenue, in such a
manner as to protect and encourage the labor of
our own citizens. Duties however should not be
fixed at a rate so high as to exclude the foreign
article, but should be so graduated as to enable
the domestic manufacturer fairly to compete with
the foreigner in our own markets, and by this
competition to reduce the price of the manufac-
tured article to the consumer to the lowest rate at
which it can be produced. This policy would
place the mechanic by the side of the farmer, cre-
ate a mutual interchange of their respective com-
modities, and thus stimulate the industry of the
whole country, and render us independent of for-
eign nations for the supplies required by the ha-
bits or necessities of the people.

Another question, wholly independent of
protection, presents itself, and that is, which
of the duties levied should be upon the value
of the articles at the place of shipment, or
where it is practicable, a specific duty, graduated
according to quantity, as ascertained by weight or
measure. All our duties are at present ad valorem.
A certain per centage is levied on the price of the
goods at the port of shipment in a foreign coun-
try. Most commercial nations have found it in-
dispensable, for the purpose of preventing fraud
and perjury, to make the duties specific whenever
the article is of such uniform value in weight or
measure as to justify such a duty. Legislation
should never encourage dishonesty or crime. It
is impossible that the revenue office at the port
where the goods are entered and the duties paid
should know with certainty what they are in the
foreign country. Yet the law re-
quires that they should levy the duty according
to such cost. They are therefore compelled to
resort to very unsatisfactory evidence to ascertain
what that cost was. They take the invoice of the
importer, attested by his oath, as the best evi-
dence of which the nature of the case admits.
But every one must see that the invoice may be
fabricated, and the oath by which it is supported
false, by reason of which the dishonest importer
pays a part only of the duties which are paid by
the honest one, and thus indirectly received from
the treasury of the United States a reward from
his fraud and perjury. The reports of the Sec-
retary of the Treasury heretofore made on this
subject show conclusively that these frauds have
been practiced to a great extent. The tendency is to
destroy that high moral character for which our
merchants have been distinguished; to defraud
the Government of its revenue; to break down
the honest importer by a dishonest competition;
and, finally, to transfer the business of importa-
tion to foreign and irresponsible agents, to the
great detriment of our own citizens. I therefore
again most earnestly recommend the adoption of
specific duties, wherever it is practicable, or a
home valuation, to prevent these frauds.

I would also again call your attention to the
fact that the present tariff in some cases impos-
es a higher duty upon the raw material imported
than upon the article manufactured from it, the
consequence of which is that the duty operates to
the encouragement of the foreigner, and the dis-
couragement on our own citizens.

For full and detailed information in regard to
the general condition of our Indian affairs, I re-
spectfully refer you to the report of the Secretary
of the Interior and the accompanying documents.
The Senate not having thought proper to ratify
the treaties which had been negotiated with the
tribes of Indians in California and Oregon, our
relations with them have been left in a very
unsatisfactory condition.

In other parts of our territory particular dis-
tricts of country have been set apart for the ex-
clusive occupation of the Indians, and their right
to the lands within those limits has been acknowl-
edged and respected. But in California and
Oregon there has been no recognition by the Gov-
ernment of the exclusive right of the Indians to
any part of the country. They are, therefore
mere tenants at sufferance, and liable to be driven
from place to place, at the pleasure of the whites.

The treaties which have been rejected proposed
to remedy this evil allotting to the different tribes
districts of country suitable to their habits of life,
and sufficient for their support. This provision,
more than any other, it is believed, led to their
rejection; and as no substitute for it has been
adopted by Congress, it has not been deemed ad-
visable to attempt to enter into the new treaties
of a permanent character, although no effort has
been spared by temporary arrangements to pre-
serve friendly relations with them.

If it be the desire of Congress to remove them
from the country altogether, or to assign to them
particular districts more remote from the settle-
ments of the whites, it will be proper to set apart
by law the territory which they are to occupy,
and to provide the means necessary for removing
them to it. Justice alike to our own citizens and
to the Indians requires the prompt action of Congress
on this subject.

The amendments proposed by the Senate, to
the treaties which were negotiated with the Sioux

Indians of Minnesota have been submitted to
the tribes who were parties to them, and have re-
ceived their assent. A large tract of valuable
territory has thus been opened for settlement and
cultivation, and all danger of collision with those
powerful and warlike bands has been happily re-
moved.

The removal of the remnant of the tribe of
Seminole Indians from Florida has long been a
cherished object of the Government, and it is one
to which my attention has been steadily directed.
Admonished by past experience of the difficulty
and cost of the attempt to remove them by mili-
tary force, resort has been to conciliatory measures.
By the invitation of the Commissioner of Indian
Affairs, several of the principal chiefs recently vi-
sited Washington, and whilst here acknowledged
in writing the obligation of their tribes to remove
with the least possible delay. Late advices from
the special agent of the Government represent
that a council of their people has been called to
make their preliminary arrangements. A general
emigration may therefore be confidently expected
at an early day.

The report from the General Land Office shows
increased activity in its operations. The survey
of the northern boundary of Iowa has been com-
pleted with unexampled despatch. Within the
last year 9,522,953 acres of public land have
been surveyed, and 8,032,493 acres brought into
market.

In the late fiscal year there were
sold 1,553,071 acres
Located with bounty land warrants 3,301,314 "
Located with other certificates . . . 115,682 "
Making total of 4,970,067

In addition there were
Reported under swamp land grants 5,219,188 "
For internal improvements, rail-
roads, &c. 3,028,920 "

Making an aggregate of 13,118,175 "

Being an increase in the amount of lands sold
and located under land warrants of 569,220 acres
over the previous year.
The whole amount thus sold, located under
land warrants, reported under swamp land grants,
and selected for internal improvements that of
the previous year by 3,345,372 acres, and the
sales would, without doubt, have been much larger
but for the extensive reservations for railroads
in Missouri, Mississippi, and Alabama.

For the quarter ending 30th September, 1852,
there were sold 2,438,256 acres
Located with bounty land warrants 1,387,115 "
Located with other certificates . . . 16,649 "
Reports under swamp land grants 2,185,233 "

Making an aggregate for the quar-
ter of 4,131,253 "

Much the larger portion of the labor of arrang-
ing and classifying the returns of the last census
has been finished, and it will now devolve upon
Congress to make the necessary provision for the
publication of the results in such forms as shall
be deemed best. The apportionment of repre-
sentation, on the basis of the new census, has been
made by the Secretary of the Interior in conform-
ity with the provisions of law relating to that
subject, and the recent elections have been made
in accordance with it.

I commenced to your favourable regard the
suggestion contained in the report of the Sec-
retary of the Interior that provision be made by law
for the publication and distribution, periodically,
of an analytical digest of all the patents which
have been, or may hereafter be, granted for useful
inventions and discoveries, with such descriptions
and illustrations as may be necessary to present
an intelligible view of their nature and operation.
The cost of such publication could easily be de-
frayed out of the patent fund, and I am persuaded
that it should be applied to no object more ac-
ceptable to inventors and beneficial to the public
at large.

An appropriation of \$100,000 having been
made at the last session for the purchase of a suit-
able site, and for the erection, furnishing, and fit-
ting up of an asylum for the insane of the District
of Columbia, and of the Army and Navy of the
United States, the proper measures have been
adopted to carry this beneficent purpose into ef-
fect.

By the latest advices from the Mexican Bound-
ary Commission it appears that the survey of the
river Gila, from its confluence with the Colorado
to its supposed intersection with the Western line
of New Mexico, has been completed. The survey
of the Rio Grande has also been finished from
the point agreed on by the Commissioner as "the
point where it strikes the southern boundary of
New Mexico" to a point one hundred and thirty-
five miles below Eagle Pass, which is about two-
thirds of the distance along the course of the riv-
er to its mouth.

The appropriation which was made at the last
session of Congress for the continuation of the
survey is subject to the following provision:

"Provided, That no part of this appropriation
shall be used or expended until it shall be made
satisfactory to appear to the President of the United
States that the Southern boundary of New Mexico
is not established by the commissioner
and surveyor of the United States farther North
of the town called 'Pass' than the same is laid
down in Disturnell's map, which is added to the
report."

My attention was drawn to this subject by a
report from the Department of the Interior, which
reviewed all the facts of the case, and submitted
for my decision the question whether, under ex-
isting circumstances, any part of the appropriation
could be lawfully used or expended for the
further prosecution of the work. After a careful
consideration of the subject, I came to the conclu-
sion that it could not, and so informed the head
of the Department. Orders were immediately
issued by him to the commissioner and surveyor
to make no further requisitions on the Department,
as they could not be paid; and to discontinue all
operations on the Southern line of New Mexico.
But as the Department had no exact information
as to the amount of provisions and money which
remained unexpended in the hands of the com-
missioner and surveyor, it was left discretionary
with them to continue the survey down the Rio
Grande as far as the means at their disposal
would enable them, or at once to disband the
Commission. A special messenger has since ar-
rived from the office in charge of the survey on
the river, with information that the funds subject
to his control were exhausted, and that the offi-
cers and others employed in the service were de-

stitute alike of the means of prosecuting the work
and of returning to their homes.

The object of the proviso was doubtless to ar-
rest the survey of the southern and western lines
of New Mexico, in regard to which different opin-
ions have been expressed; for it is hardly to be
supposed that there could be any objection to
that part of the line which extends along the
channel of the Rio Grande. But the terms of
the law are so broad as to forbid the use of any
part of the money for the prosecution of the work
or even for the payment, to the officers and
agents, of the arrearages of pay which are justly
due to them.

I earnestly invite your attention to this subject,
and recommend a modification of the terms of the
proviso so as to enable the Department to use as
much of the appropriation as will be necessary to
discharge the existing obligation of the Govern-
ment, and to complete the survey of the Rio
Grande to its mouth.

It will also be proper to make further provi-
sion by law for the fulfillment of our treaty with
Mexico for running and marking the residue of
the boundary line between the two countries.

Permit me to invite your particular attention
to the interest of the District of Columbia, which
are confided by the Constitution to your peculiar
care.

Among the measures which seem to me of the
greatest importance to its prosperity are the intro-
duction of a copious supply of water into the
city of Washington, and the construction of suit-
able bridges across the Potomac to replace those
which were destroyed by high water in the early
part of the present year.

At the last session of Congress an appropriation
was made to defray the cost of the surveys
necessary for determining the best means of af-
fordng an unobstructed supply of good and whole-
some water. Some progress has been made in
the survey, and as soon as it is completed the re-
sult will be laid before you.

Further appropriations will also be necessary
for grading and paving the streets and avenue,
and enclosing and embellishing the public grounds
within the city of Washington.

I commend all these objects, together with the
charitable institutions of the District, to your fa-
vorable regard.

Every effort has been made to protect our fron-
tier, and that of the adjoining Mexican States,
from the incursions of the Indian tribes. Of
about 11,000 men of which the army is compos-
ed, nearly 8,000 are employed by the defence of
the newly-acquired territory, (including Texas,) and
of emigrants proceeding thence. I am gratified
to say that these efforts have been, annually
successful. With the exception of some partial
outbreaks in California and Oregon, and occasi-
onal depredations on a portion of the Rio Grande,
owing, it is believed, to the disturbed state of that
border region, the incursions of the Indians have
effectually been restrained.

Experience has shown, however when the two
races are brought into contact, collisions will
inevitably occur. To prevent these collisions the
United States have generally set apart portions
of their territory for the exclusive occupation of
the Indian tribes. A difficulty occurs, however,
in the application of this policy of Texas. By
the terms of the compact by which that State was
admitted into the Union, she retained the own-
ership of all the vacant lands within the limits.

The government of that State, it is understood,
has assigned no portion of her territory to the
Indians, but as fast as her settlement advance lays
it off into counties and proceeds to survey and
sell it. This policy manifestly tends, not only to
alarm and irritate the Indians, but to compel
them to resort to plunder for subsistence. It al-
so deprives this Government of that influence
and control over them without which no durable
peace can ever exist between them and the whites.
I trust, therefore, that a due regard for her own
interest, apart from consideration of humanity
and justice, will induce the State to assign a small
portion of her vast domain for the tribal occu-
pancy of the small remnants of the tribes within
her borders, subject of course to her ownership
and eventual relinquishment. If she should fail to
do this, the fulfillment of our treaty stipulations
with Mexico, and our duty to the Indians them-
selves, will, it is feared, become a subject of serious
embarrassment to the Government. It is hoped,
however, that a timely and just provision by Tex-
as may avert this evil.

No appropriations for fortifications were made
at the two last sessions of Congress. The case
of this omission is, probably, to be found in a
growing belief that the system of fortifications
adopted in 1816, and heretofore acted on, requires
revisions.</